



Law Offices of the Fresno County Public Defender

Kenneth K. Taniguchi
Public Defender

September 18, 2013

Mr. John Navarrette, County Administrative Officer
Hall of Records, Room 301
2281 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mr. Navarrette:

This letter shall serve as my formal notice to retire as Fresno County's Public Defender, effective February 2, 2014.

It has been my honor to serve the County of Fresno for over 31 years both as a public defender attorney and as its department head for the past six years. I am very grateful to the Board of Supervisors for providing me the opportunity to guide the department through what has been the most difficult period in its 45-year existence. Recent changes to the criminal justice system from AB 109 have turned the tide in the government's perspective on how best to promote public safety. Evidence and evidence based practice has restored the faith that people can change for the better, and that increased incarceration was not the solution to prevent recidivism. Recent restoration of positions to the department and the anticipated restoration of more resources lost in the past economic crisis support my belief that the department is well on its way toward recovery. Having piloted the office through difficult times and weathered the storm, a safe harbor is in sight. This now provides me with the peace of mind to retire.

The County's "Public Defender Day" Proclamation of March 18, 2013 reinforced the unique and cherished American ideal under the 6th Amendment that all persons accused of a crime have a fundamental constitutional right to counsel. The rule of law, which makes our system of justice a model for all nations, is well sustained by the County's continued support of the dedicated attorneys and staff of the Public Defender office.

I again wish to thank you, the Board of Supervisors, members of Fresno's Public Safety community, fellow department heads and the entire staff of the Public Defender Office for their help and support during my tenure.

Respectfully,



Kenneth K. Taniguchi

Cc/Honorable Henry Perea, Chairman, District 3 Supervisor
Honorable Andres Borgeas, Vice Chairman, District 2 Supervisor
Honorable Deborah A. Poochigian, District 5 Supervisor
Honorable Phil Larson, District 1 Supervisor
Honorable Judith G. Case, District 4 Supervisor